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New Zealand

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

ANZFA APPROVES FOOD FROM ROUNDUP-READY SOYBEANS

1999

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Report Highlights: ANZFA will include foods from glyphosate-tolerant soybeans in its new standard for genetically modified foods. Sale of foods produced using gene technology is prohibited in New Zealand and Australia unless specifically approved.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Wellington [NZ1], NZ

ANZFA APPROVES FOOD DERIVED FROM GLYPHOSATE-TOLERANT (ROUNDUP READY) SOYBEANS

The Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) has identified no potential public health and safety concerns for food derived from glyphosate-tolerant soybean line 40-3-2 (Roundup-ready soybeans). Following a public comment period which closes on March 31, 1999, ANZFA intends to include the product in its new standard for genetically modified foods, specifically the Table to Clause 2 of Standard A18 – Food Produced Using Gene Technology.

Standard A18 was adopted as a joint Australia New Zealand standard in July 1998 and is due to come into effect on May 13, 1999. After that time, the sale of food produced using gene technology will be prohibited unless the food is listed in the Table to the Standard.

ANZFA has ruled that food derived from glyphosate-tolerant soybean line 40-3-2 can be regarded as substantially equivalent to food from conventional soybeans in respect of its composition, safety, wholesomeness and end use.

Under Standard A18, as currently written, food derived from glyphosate-tolerant soybean line 40-3-2 would not require labeling as it can be regarded as substantially equivalent to food from conventional soybeans. However, under proposed amendments to Standard A18, as a result of a December 1998 decision of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council (ANZSC), it is likely that certain soybean products may require labeling once these amended provisions take effect.

ANZFA does not intend to notify the recommendation on soybeans to the WTO as a Sanitary or Phytosanitary notification or a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) notification because the proposed variation to the Food Standards Code constitutes a minor technical change, and they believe it will have no effect on trade issues for either technical or sanitary reasons.

See NZ9016 for more information on the setting of food standards in Australia and New Zealand.